

### An Elgin County Barn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In 1912 H. V. Mann used the timbers of his two old barns to build a new and modern barn. His old barns were 50 feet long, and he put the frame of an old barn across each end of his new barn, and let the long way of the old barn go crosswise or the (50 feet) narrow way of his new barn. The space between the two old frames is used as the drive floor. A granary is situated in the south-east corner of the barn. This barn is situated about one mile east of Aylmer in Elgin County, Ont. Nearly all the barns in this section are large, hip-roofed, dairy barns with modern conveniences. Any farmer expecting to build a good barn could get much useful information by taking a trip to this part of the country, and going through some of the best barns.

Our barn, illustrated in last week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate", is 60 feet by 100 feet, and built on the truss system with no beams inside. It has two hips on each side. Mr. Mann's barn is just east of ours. It is fifty feet by eighty-four feet, and all measurements are given on the plan of the basement produced herewith. He has patent wooden cow stanchions constructed on a swivel at top and bottom so as to revolve, but not move from side to side. A barn like this would cost \$3,000, and Mr. Mann finds it very convenient to work in. Everything is well finished and of good material. The roof is galvanized iron. The windows have iron gratings over them, so the stock cannot break the glass. This barn is a good size for a 100-acre farm.

Elgin Co., Ont.

THOS BRADT.

### Fences and Fencing.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It was no uncommon sight this spring to see rail fences blown down by the storm. Many days' work were required to fix up same, and still some rails are scattered beside the fence lines.

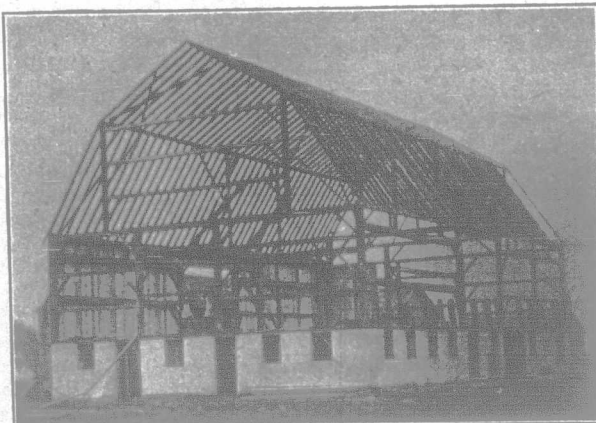
Here again we see the superiority of wire fencing. If properly built, they need no repairs for several years. The time is approaching when the last rail will have been decayed, and the wind then will have no chance to ruin fences. Nature's destructive agent then will be "rust." Poorly galvanized wire rusts out within a few years, and should always be avoided. To test the galvanizing, take a piece of the wire and bend it to a short angle. If the galvanizing breaks, the latter was poorly done.

When building a wire fence, the first thing is to set the end or corner posts well. For long fences I use a ten-foot post, eight inches in diameter, and make notches at the bottom for two scantlings, four feet long, which are nailed securely with six-inch spikes. The hole for this post is made four feet by three feet and about five feet deep, the post is put in and the hole filled up level with the scantlings. I place small boards, three feet long, over them to make a large anchor platform, and fill the hole up to the top, tramping thoroughly. A flat stone or a board can be put crosswise in front of the post near the surface if desired but this is not necessary.

Next comes the bracing. A post (an ordinary cedar post is ideal) five inches in diameter, is placed twelve feet from the end post in the fence line. I always nail a plank, two feet

long, crosswise in front of the brace post, about four inches below the surface, to keep former from shifting while stretching. For a brace I use a cedar pole, four inches in diameter at small end, placing it three feet from ground at the end post and eighteen inches at the brace post, and nailing it securely in notches with spikes on both sides of brace. Four strands of wire are passed around the two posts, (No. 9 soft) and stapled up as high as possible on brace post and as low down on end post as possible. After this the wire is cabled with a piece of wood or a hammer handle till tight.

After having prepared both ends as above and the line posts set, I proceed with wire. Some use woven fences the majority of which are all right, but I prefer the following method of making fence. No. 9 coiled wire is passed around post and wrapped around itself about four times with a wire splicer. To unroll wire I always put the reel on a stone boat, and drive with the boat along the fence line. In this way the wire draws gently from the roll and lies quietly on the ground. Some place reel on the ground, and fastening singletree to wire draw it over the ground. Drawing the wire over the ground and



An Elgin County Barn, Showing Construction.

small stones, as is often done, disturbs and scratches away a great deal of the galvanizing, which is the wire's protection from rust. I only set reel on ground for very short fences, where I pull wire out by hand.

Stretching is usually done with a block and tackle and a wire grip, but I prefer the stretcher made at home by the aid of a blacksmith.

Two pieces of chain and a maple scantling three inches by three inches by ten or twelve feet are necessary. The pieces of chain should be about three feet long, and must have a grab hook at one end and a ring at the other. In one end of the lever or scantling three holes are bored through about one foot apart. In the middle hole of the lever a chain is fastened with a clevis (not one of the chains mentioned above, but another chain or strong rope), and with the other end to the anchor post. The small chains mentioned above are fastened on the lever by clevises with the grab hooks pointing the opposite way than with the chain mentioned before. The wire grip is then placed about ten feet from stretcher and an ordinary logging chain fastened on it and pulled towards the stretcher, one grab hook of the latter is hung on it and the lever pulled back and forth; an attendant hanging the other

grab hook on every time the lever is pulled till wire is tight enough.

If fence is built over rolling or rough ground, the wire must be stapled enough on hills and in hollows to keep it in place. Use galvanized staples entirely, because others rust out and even start rusting the line wire. It is also not good policy to hang old, rusty wire on new fences.

Some complain that cattle, pressing against the fence, pull out the upper staples. This can be prevented by wrapping a No. 12 soft wire around strand on one side of the post, passing around post, wrapping the other end of the wire around the strand on the opposite side of post. Another preventive in use, for the top, is a barbed wire. Some would likely think this is dangerous, but it is not so dangerous as a fence without it, and it stops horses fighting over the fence and getting shoes caught, etc. For uprights I generally use stays of No. 7 or No. 9 wire with wedge, which I procure from a firm in London. Some farmers use wooden stays and fence hooks, which are all right with the exception that they soon rot and break so easily.

As to the post-hole-digging machine doing entirely away with hand work, I do not believe that such a machine would pay the average farmer except for doing work for others. For my own use I prefer the ordinary digging tool, but if one has to buy fence posts he would do better buying iron posts. Such posts should, however, be galvanized. Some used in this locality are not, and the result is the wire starts to rust where it touches the post and soon afterwards breaks.

Waterloo Co., Ont.

SIMON KUNTZ.

### POULTRY.

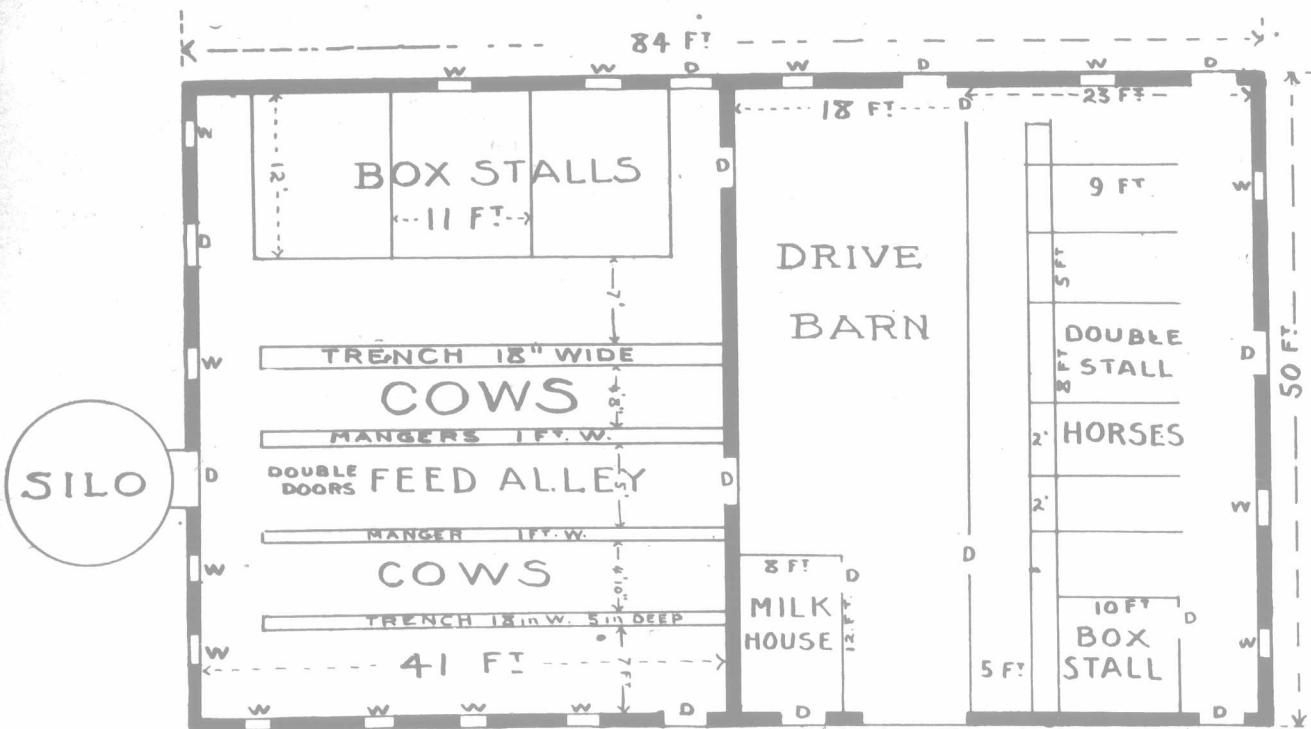
#### Poultry Keeping in the City.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I beg to submit for your readers' consideration my experience in keeping poultry in a city. At the outset I may say that judging from the net profit it would appear that the "game wasn't worth the candle." However, an urban amateur poultryman is not in the business simply for the money he can get out of it, but on the other hand he doesn't care to dabble in it as a losing proposition even if he gets some pleasure in the bargain. If one can combine a good deal of pleasure with a modicum of profit in any side-line as a hobby the venture is worth while. In the tremendously strenuous fight one has to put up these days to make both ends meet it is a mighty good thing to have some recreative pursuit that will relieve the tension for a while with the least possible outlay. Poultry-keeping fills the bill for this purpose in my humble opinion at least.

When we hear the rooster crow and the hens cackle it makes us forget all the worries and care of the office, workshop or school-room. For the time being we are back on the old homestead hunting eggs in the straw-stack, under the manglers and in the mows. There is a great deal of wisdom in the man who does some things "just for the fun of it" and not "for what is in it."

Now for a few facts and figures. During the past year I have learned a few things that are worth recording. In the first place it is not wise to keep a large flock of chickens in a limited space. Twenty-five hens is enough for any ordinary sized city lot. It is absolutely necessary also to keep the hen-house dry and clean. I was advised to have a dirt floor, but I soon discovered when the fall rains set in that it was necessary to put in a board floor. In doing this, however, I made a sad mistake. In the scratching pen, in order to save time I laid the sleepers on the ground. This made a fine resort for rats, a cat couldn't get at them. By means of traps I prevented the rats from increasing very rapidly until last summer, when I had an experience that I shall not soon forget. We had hatched out about sixteen chickens, most of them pure-breds, and when they were old enough to wean (is that the proper term?) I put them in the scratching pen. I was afraid the rats might get in so I nailed up every possible opening. All went well for a few days. One morning, however, I missed five chickens and noticed that another one was nearly dead. I looked around for the cause and soon found a rat hole in the floor big enough to pull a small pullet through. Well wasn't I mad? That evening I poured out my tale of woe to a sympathetic neighbor who was hoeing in the garden. "Let us tear up the floor," said he, I took him at his word and at it we went. Such a sight! There were little rats, medium rats and big rats. The ground was fairly honey-combed with tunnels. One shout soon brought reinforcements and the fun began. Everybody had a club and the fur began to fly. We killed about twenty rats and probably more than that number escaped. I had been feeding those young robbers all winter and spring, although I had caught nearly a dozen in the feed-bin in traps.



Plan of H. V. Mann's Barn, Elgin Co., Ont.